



MEDIA RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES WAGE ADJUSTMENTS

Medicine Hat – Medicine Hat City Council recently approved an additional 1.0 per cent wage adjustment (over current contracts) for Exempt (Non-Union) employees and the five Union employee groups covered under their collective agreements.

The additional increases, which are effective Jan. 1, 2008, ensure City wages remain reasonably competitive and the City continues to be able to attract and retain staff critical to its success.

"This Council values our people who provide service to our residents," says Mayor Norm Boucher. "As an employer, the City has six employee groups - five union and one non-union. When determining compensation for its employees, City Council uses the median of salaries paid by similar organizations in Alberta as a reference point."

"The Human Resources department monitors wage trends across the province and keeps Council informed on changes occurring in the market place," added Gerry Labas, Chief Administrative Officer. "Based on market data the City is aware there is a growing gap between the market median and wage settlements that are in place with a number of its employee groups. The strength of the Alberta economy has impacted the City's collective agreement salaries such that they have fallen behind wage projections when these agreements were signed."

- 30 -

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